

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner found that the Application was in condition for allowance, except for the certain informalities which are addressed below. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that this application contains allowable subject matter. Prosecution has been closed on the merits in accordance with Ex Parte Quayle, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because of lack of labels in FIG 2 and the lack of label of Prior Art in FIGs 1a-4. In response, labels have been added to FIG 2 and

the reference numeral 34 along with the associated box have been deleted, for better conformance with the specification. Further, FIGs 1a-1c have been amended to include the legend Prior Art. FIGs 2-4 have not been labeled as Prior Art, since they may include features related to the invention, such as the lead-out unit 36 shown in FIG 3 and described on page 6, lines 29-32 of the specification, for example. Replacement sheets including FIGs 1a-1c and 2 are enclosed. Further, an annotated marked-up version of the sheet including FIG 2 is enclosed for convenience. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection.


In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 7 and 9 for a certain informality. In response, claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended to remove the informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to claims informality has been overcome and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested. Further, claims 1-10 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not

limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-10 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheets (2 sheets including
FIGs 1a-1c and 2)
Annotated drawing sheet (1 sheets including FIG 2)
New Abstract

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